

Cycling Europe

AUSTRIA 2019

DANUBE: SCHARDING OR PASSAU TO VIENNA SELF GUIDED CYCLE TOUR 10 DAYS/9 NIGHTS

350kms

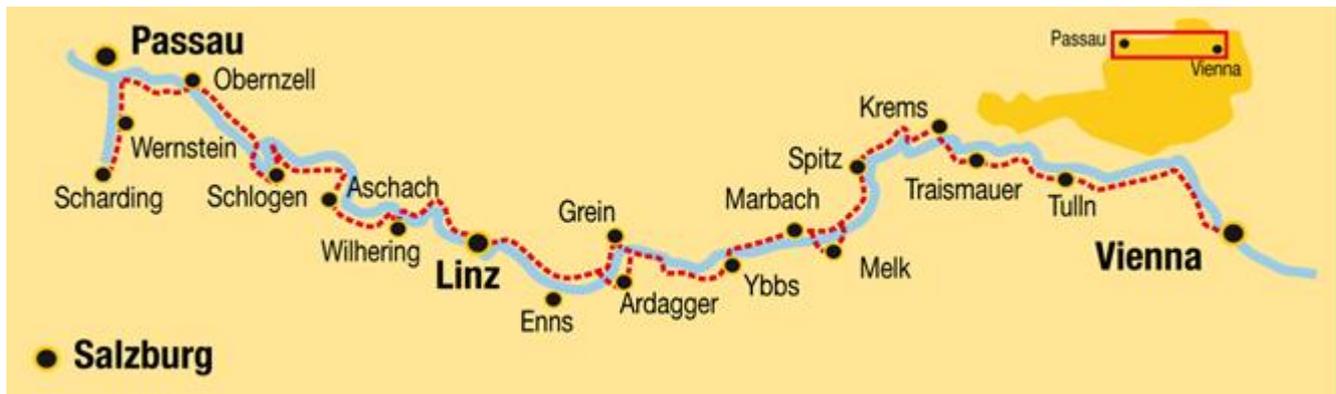
The classic cycle path along the Danube from Passau to Vienna is one of the most beautiful routes in Europe, with imposing river landscape, picturesque villages and landscapes, and Austrian cuisine. Along its way are the Schlägener Schlinge – a dramatic loop in the river; the cultural metropolis of Linz and Greinburg Castle; the Benedictine Abbey of Melk, founded in 1089; the modern Art Museum of Kunstmeile Krems; the renowned wine valley of Wachau. Visiting one of the Buschenschenken (wine taverns) in the Wachau is highly recommended. The starting-point is Schärding or Passau. Be sure you don't miss a concert performed on the biggest church organ in the world in Passau!



GRADE: Easy cycling 35-50km per day

The bike-path along the Danube is mostly flat or slightly downhill. The trail is signposted and maintained very well. Distances are 35-50km per day on the 9 night tour.

ITINERARY



Day 1: Arrive Schärding or Passau

Start in Schärding: Our tour partners' office is located in Schärding. If you start here you can meet them in their office, gain their local knowledge and ask any questions about the tour. If you have a rental car, they offer free parking for the duration of the tour.

(Train: Passau to Schärding is 12 minutes). Schärding is a pretty baroque town.

Or start in Passau: There are direct trains to Passau from Vienna, Munich, Frankfurt & Frankfurt Airport. Allow time for sightseeing in this pretty town at the confluence of three rivers. At noon you can enjoy an organ concert (except on Sundays and public holidays) on the largest church organ in the world in St Stephen's cathedral in Passau.

Schärding to Passau is only 17 km, so if you arrive by Noon, it is possible to pick up bikes at the office, and ride to Passau on Day 1.

Day 2: Schärding/ Passau – Oberes Donautal (Upper Danube Valley)

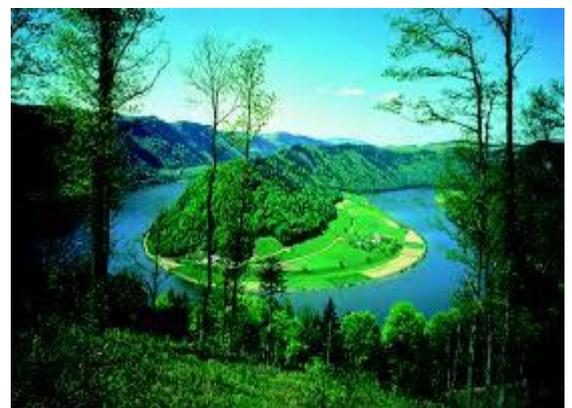
If you stay the first night in Passau, bikes can be delivered to your hotel this morning (8.30 am – 9.30 am, no briefing).

From Schärding: to Passau there is a wonderful bike path along the Inn. (17 km). From Passau you have the option to go by boat for the first part of the bike tour. Otherwise you cycle along the southern side of the Danube until Engelhartzell, where you can find the only Trappist monastery in Austria. In Engelhartzell you can cross the Danube by ferry or at Jochenstein (1 km before Engelhartzell) cycle over the power station to the northern side of the Danube. At the Jochenstein power station you can visit the waterworld at the "House at the River".

Day 3: Oberes Donautal (Upper Danube Valley)

Aschach/ Linz /surrounding area

The first highlight of today is the "Schlögener Donauschlinge" where the Danube River loops to a turn of 180 degrees. Then cycle through the village of Aschach, past the monastery at Wilhering, to Linz, the capital of Upper Austria. Time to stroll through the enchanting old town with its interesting sights in the evening. Stay overnight in Linz or surrounding area.



Day 4: Aschach/ Linz /surrounding area Enns

Today leave Linz and cycle through the countryside to Enns, the oldest town in Austria.

Day 5: Enns – Ardagger/Grein

Visit the Memorial in Mauthausen - a reminder of a dark and devastating time in history. Continue on to the beautiful old mariner town of Grein where you can visit the oldest theatre in Austria, the Greinburg Castle perched up on a hilltop, and the maritime museum.



Day 6: Ardagger/Grein - Marbach/Maria Taferl/Melk/surrounding area

Today cycle through the Strudengau on the southern side of the Danube to the old Roman town of Ybbs, then cross the Danube on the dam of the power station Ybbs-Persenbeug. Reach Marbach by cycling through the gentle landscape of Nibelungengau. Past Marbach and high over the Danube stands the pilgrimage church of Maria Taferl. Your route then follows via Klein Pöchlarn to Melk whose highlight is the wonderful baroque Benedictine Abbey located high on a rocky outcrop above the Danube.



Day 7: Marbach/Maria Taferl/Melk – Weisenkirchen/Krems/surrounding area

Be sure to visit the Benedictine Monastery in Melk before venturing into the picturesque wine area of the Wachau where vineyards, apricot trees, monasteries and castles grace the landscape. The cycle path leads through the traditional viticultural villages of the Wachau.

Additional nights can be booked here to relax and enjoy the Wachau.

Day 8: Weisenkirchen/Krems – Tulln/surrounding area

The Wachau ends in Krems, a town more than 1000 years old, with medieval streets and romantic arcaded courtyards and traditional baroque town houses. From there cross the Danube once again and cycle past Göttweig Monastery to Traismauer or into the flat Tullner Field with its city of flowers, Tulln.

Day 9: Tulln/surrounding area-Vienna

Shortly before Vienna the valley narrows again. The Danube passes through the Vienna Gate on the edge of the Vienna Woods and takes you through Klosterneuburg to the beautiful, charismatic city of Vienna, famous for its cafe culture and its many sights.

Day 10: Vienna

Arrangements end after breakfast. You can add additional nights in Vienna with sightseeing and and/or a Vienna by bike tour.



2019 SCHEDULE

Start any day from 1st April – 31st October

Please specify if you wish to start in Schärding (safe parking available free of charge) or Passau at the time of booking.

2019 COST PER PERSON IN EURO (9 NIGHTS/10 DAYS), including breakfast

Hotel Category	A: (4/3 star)	B: (3/4 star)	C: (3 star)
Double / Twin Share	€1058	€ 930	€ 835
Single Room	€1348	€1180	€1038
Bike rental 7 or 21 speed	€ 75	€ 75	€ 75
Electric Bike	€175	€175	€175
Half board - 7 dinners	n/a	€155	€145

7 & 21 speed bikes have 2 pannier bags. E-Bikes have 1 pannier bag.

Half Board & special dietary requirements must be specified at time of booking.

Helmets can be requested – cost extra.

CATEGORY A HOTELS

Accommodation predominantly in the **best hotels along the Danube** (4-star in Grein & 3-star in Traismauer). Spacious and comfortable rooms with own bathroom with bath and toilet or shower and toilet. The hotels are situated in the centres of the most beautiful villages and towns.

CATEGORY B HOTELS

Accommodation in **very good, comfortable hotels, and excellent inns**, mostly family-run. 3 star & 4-star category. All rooms with have bath and toilet or shower and toilet. These properties rank among the best in the villages. Half Board (dinner) is possible for 7 nights only (not in Vienna).

CATEGORY C HOTELS

3- star accommodation in **comfortable guest houses, inns or hotels**, usually family-run. All rooms have own shower or bath and a toilet. Half Board (dinner) is possible for 7 nights only (not in Vienna).

Twin or Double beds: We can request Double or Twin beds at time of booking, however the hotels will not guarantee the bed type.

2019 COST INCLUDES:

- 9 nights accommodation in the category selected
- Breakfast daily (biker-breakfast or buffet)
- Luggage transfers (number of bags is not limited)
- 1 Info pack per room with maps & road book, sightseeing information
- Free parking in Schärding
- Local service-hotline
- Danube Card – offering reductions on many highlights along the route
- Tour information – short briefing available in Schärding only

OPTIONAL VIENNA BY BIKE TOUR

Guided sightseeing tour in Vienna by bike: daily from May to September, duration 3 hours. €42 per person.

2019 EXTRA NIGHT COST IN EURO PER PERSON

Schärding or Passau

including breakfast

Category "A" : Double/Twin €70 per person / single room €92

Category "B&C": Double/Twin €55 per person / single room €74

Vienna:

including breakfast

Category "A": Double/Twin €79 per person / single room €116

Category "B&C": Double/Twin €67/€79 per person / single room €99/€116

VIENNA EXTENSION - 2 NIGHT PACKAGE

Includes 2 night's accommodation, breakfast and admission to Stephen's Cathedral with audio tour, catacombs tour, ascent of the south tower for spectacular views of Vienna, take the lift to the bell "Pummerin" in the north tower, and visit the cathedral treasures.

Category A or B: €165 per person (share twin/double room) **€235** (single)

Category C: €145 per person (share twin/double room) **€205** (single)



TRANSFERS

Bus Vienna to Passau/Scharding after tour: every day at 2.30 p.m. Duration: approx. 4 hours
Fee: € 49 per person including bike.
(Reservation necessary)

AMENDMENT FEES

Change of accommodation category after booking has been requested €50 per booking. Date changes after booking has been requested €150 per booking.



Book through:

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